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Abstract

A method is proposed for regenerating a nitrogen oxide storage catalytic converter (4) arranged in an exhaust pipe (3) of an internal combustion engine (1). In the method, a constant value is set in a first regeneration phase (11) for the air/fuel ratio λ_M of the air/fuel mixture fed to the internal combustion engine (1) when a predeterminable triggering threshold value for the nitrogen oxide concentration in the exhaust gas on the output side of the nitrogen oxide storage catalytic converter (4) is exceeded. The first regeneration phase (11) is followed by a second regeneration phase (12).

According to the invention, in the second regeneration phase (12), the time rate of change $d\lambda_M/dt$ of the air/fuel ratio λ_M is set as a function of the mass flow of the exhaust gas flowing through the nitrogen oxide storage catalytic converter (4) or as a function of an internal combustion engine operating variable linked with the mass flow of exhaust gas.

Fig. 2.